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REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 29, 2006. Claim 1 is amended editorially and is supported, for example, in the specification on page 5, lines 14-19; page 5, line 34-page 6, line 1; and Figure 1. No new matter is added. Claims 1-5 remain pending.

§102(e) Rejections:

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Kitamura (US Patent No. 6,744,568). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to an objective lens for focusing a light beam emitted from a light source on an information recording surface of an optical information recording medium which requires, among other features, that the objective lens have an upper surface of an edge and a substantially truncated-cone-shaped portion projecting from the upper surface of the edge on its surface on a side of the optical information recording medium. An advantage of this configuration is that it ensures optical compatibility with two different kinds of optical information recording media and prevents interference with the cartridge containing one of the two media (see page 3, lines 23-31).

Kitamura does not disclose or teach or suggest these features. Kitamura is directed to a single-lens objective lens in which both surfaces of the objective lens are aspherical. Nowhere does Kitamura disclose or teach or suggest the objective lens having an upper surface of an edge and a substantially truncated-cone-shaped portion that projects from the upper surface of the edge on its surface on a side of the optical information recording medium. In fact, nowhere does Kitamura teach or suggest a configuration that ensures optical compatibility with two different kinds of optical information recording media and prevents interference with the cartridge containing one of the two media. In contrast, Kitamura merely discloses an objective lens (6) that has a substantially flat surface on a side of the disk (7) (see Figure 1). Figure 3 of Kitamura merely illustrates the effective portion of the objective lens (6) shown in Figure 1 to explain how the objective lens (6) functions. Figure 3 does not disclose a different shaped objective lens (6) structure than the objective lens (6) shown in Figure 1. For explanatory purposes, it appears that Kitamura illustrated only the portion of the

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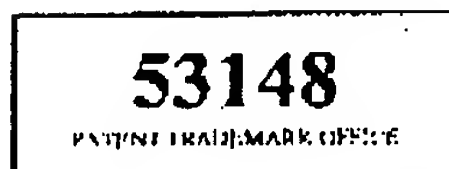
objective lens in which light enters in Figure 3. For at least these reasons, claims 1 is neither anticipated nor obvious and should be allowed. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 4 is directed to an optical head that comprises the optical lens of claim 1. Thus, claim 4 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 discussed above. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Claim 5 is directed to an optical information recording/reproducing apparatus that comprises the optical head of claim 4. Thus, claim 5 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 4 discussed above. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully asserts claims 1-5 are now in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.



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Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &  
LARSON, P.C.  
P.O. Box 2902-0902  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902  
(612) 455-3800

By: 

Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300  
DPM/ahk